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St. Clare of Montefalco Parish

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March 3, 2018
St. Katharine Drexel

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Phone (773) 436-4422
Fax (773) 476-1888
E-mail: st.clare@sbcglobal.net
5443 S. Washtenaw Ave.
Chicago, IL 60632

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

I write to join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, are unlikely to fundamentally reform the United States Postal Service or markedly increase its competitiveness. Instead, these proposed rate increases are more likely have a negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

The St. Labre Indian School is located on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Ashland, Montana.. Our mission is "to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Catholic Tradition by providing quality education which celebrates our Catholic faith and embraces Native American cultures, primarily the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Tribes, so that Native American individuals and communities of Southeastern Montana are empowered to attain self-sufficiency."

We rely heavily on direct mail for our fundraising. Indeed, our remote location and the communities we serve make other traditional forms of school fundraising (gala events, alumni appeals, etc.) extremely difficult if not impossible. If postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This would likely have a disastrous impact on our revenue, over two-thirds of which is derived from direct mail, and consequently our mission and the children and families we serve.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Rev. John Celichowski, OFM Cap.
Chairman, St. Labre Indian School Board of Directors